

The Brooklyn Paper

Including Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill Paper, Downtown News, DUMBO Paper and Fort Greene-Clinton Hill Paper

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CITY TO PUBLIC ON B'KLYN WATERFRONT:

NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS

EDC won't release pier study

EXCLUSIVE

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Red Hook residents and merchants who have been eagerly awaiting the results of a major city-sponsored study on the future of the working waterfront will have a lot longer to wait.

Maybe, forever. Officials with the city Economic Development Corp., which co-sponsored with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey the \$400,000 taxpayer-funded study of the best uses for Piers 6-12, said they will not release the results to the public.

Michael Sherman, an EDC spokesman, told The Brooklyn Papers, "There are no such plans at the moment," when asked about the study's release.

"It was always just going to be for our internal use," he said, adding that an executive summary or "highlights" of the study might be released "at some point."

"Our thinking is that we're just using the information to clarify our position on the piers," Sherman said.

A study on the feasibility of bringing the cruise ship industry to one or more of the Brooklyn docks will also meet the same fate, Sherman said. That news came as a shock to the many community groups and elected officials who have continually criticized the study's consultants,

NOT JUST NETS THE NEW BROOKLYN

Hamilton, Rabinovitz & Alschuler, saying they ignored community input throughout the process and came in with a preconceived agenda to squeeze the working ship port out.

Results of that study, which community members were led to believe would be made public, were originally to be released last August but were repeatedly pushed back.

"By denying access to this important information that was gathered with taxpayer money, the EDC has blocked the public from making its

See **WATERFRONT** on page 6



Long on talent

By Lisa J. Curtis
GO Brooklyn editor

Critically acclaimed talents and youth groups alike will strut their stuff on the Beard Street Pier in Red Hook this Saturday, May 22, as part of the 10th annual Red Hook Waterfront Arts Festival.

Among the troupes that will take the stage are the Urban Bush Women, Dance Wave Kids Company and the Pee Wee Hoofers (pictured). The band Heritage O.P., whose music has been heard in Broadway's "The Lion King" and Marc Levin's 2001 film "Brooklyn Babylon," will perform traditional African and modern music.

The Waterfront Arts Festival also includes dance and beat-box workshops, storytelling and hula-hoop performances as well as boat rides and other activities offered by the Gowanus Dredgers

and Urban Divers.

An exhibit of a wide variety of artworks by hundreds of artists, the Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition Pier Show 12 continues, and will be on display in the warehouse at 499 Van Brunt St. from noon to 5 p.m.

The Arts Festival events take place from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Beard Street Pier, Van Brunt Street at the Red Hook Channel, and the performances are free. For more information, visit the Web site www.dancetheatrecoastera.org or www.bwac.org.

A New York Water Taxi shuttle will run between Pier 63 Maritime at West 23rd Street in Manhattan and the arts festival on May 22. For the New York Water Taxi schedule, visit www.nywatertaxi.com or call (212) 287-2224.

See **GO BROOKLYN** on page 9

Ed Weintrob

Protesters need to adjust focus



It's not just the Nets, and it's not just eminent domain. Whether Bruce Ratner has his way with us, in transforming Brooklyn from its status as a perpetually evolving multi-textured urban quilt into a sterile Manhattanized version of cul-de-sac suburbia, will depend more on our collective vision than on our individual pocket-books.

That Ratner would pay handsomely to silence critics should never have been in doubt. With the club of eminent domain in one hand and a checkbook in the other, the homeowners on Ratner's site would of course choose to live in luxury somewhere else than sustain high-risk combat against Empire State Development Corp. chief Charles Gargano and Gov. George Pataki.

Atlantic Yards opponents were thus precisely wrong in making eminent domain the most apparent source of their discontent.

The larger issue, the communal one, transcends those living on-site and even nearby.

Brooklyn's success — historically and today — is due in large part to our having avoided the walled mega-block syndrome that is Ratner's tool to wealth. Neighborhoods prosper — and sometimes decline in order to regenerate and prosper anew — organically; urban renewal's bulldozer is prosperity's foe.

The soulless utopia Bruce Ratner would impose won't please and won't generate a widening swath of prosperity. For evidence, consider Metrotech and its immediate environs; compare that massively subsidized dead zone in our midst to what has happened throughout such Brownstone Brooklyn neighborhoods as Boerum Hill and Carroll Gardens, just slightly removed from that "urban campus."

Ratner is certainly capable of adequately revisiting his design, and such modifications would be welcomed here. But his track record doesn't offer much hope that he will.

EdWeintrob@BrooklynPapers.com

Heights on the market

Watchtower move could ignite real estate boom

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, one of the largest property owners in Brooklyn Heights, may soon be unloading some of its high-end, Brooklyn Heights real estate, a Watchtower spokesman told The Brooklyn Papers this week.

The corporate entity of the Jehovah's Witnesses religion recently sold off a hulking, 12-story building at 360 Furman St. at Atlantic Avenue for \$200 million.

And they may not stop there. The religious organization, whose world headquarters are in Brooklyn, plans to build a massive, 1,000-unit residential complex at 85 Jay St. in DUMBO.

That project, if approved, could lead to a surplus of Watchtower property in the area that the reli-



The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society's move to four buildings planned for this DUMBO site, at Jay and York streets, could result in stepped-up real estate activity in Brooklyn Heights.

EXCLUSIVE

gious order might want to sell off.

Watchtower owns 29 properties in Brooklyn Heights, and DUMBO including 21 residential buildings ranging from brownstones to apartment buildings.

"There's a possibility some of those buildings might go up for sale," Watchtower spokesman Richard Devine told The Papers.

In addition to the potential new residential complex in DUMBO the religious order is moving many of its printing facilities to Wallkill, N.Y., 90 miles outside of New York City.

Real estate brokers in the area have been speculating about a potential sale. "If these buildings did convert it would be a tremendous boon to the real estate business in Brooklyn Heights," said Frank Percepsie, managing director of the Corcoran office in

See **HEIGHTS** on page 8



The Flatbush Pavilion, on Flatbush Avenue near Seventh Avenue, will close after Sunday's final screenings.

The last picture show

Revived Flatbush Pavilion to close its doors

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

A Park Slope movie theater that was recently renovated will close its doors for good after its last showings on Sunday night.

The Flatbush Pavilion, which opened in 1912 as the Bunty Theater and has a storied past, was one of the oldest theaters in New York City.

After years of neglect, the former Plaza Twin, at Flatbush Avenue near Seventh Avenue, was purchased in May 2001 by Screen Arts Corporation. The new owners renovated it top to bottom, with new seats, bathrooms and snack and beverage concessions.

Screen Arts manager Amy

EXCLUSIVE

Mascena this week confirmed that the theater would be closing after Sunday's shows. The movie house did not pull in enough business to survive, she told The Brooklyn Papers.

According to a source, the theater owners have been involved in a dispute with the landlord, which may have also involved a rent increase.

The property is owned by relatives of Sol Goldman, a major New York City real estate mogul who died in the 1980s. Solli Real Estate Management, which oversees the property, did not return calls seeking comment.

Mascena, the manager, declined to comment on any dispute.

Norman Adie, principal owner of Screen Arts, did not return calls seeking comment.

News of the closing came as a surprise to nearby merchants and residents this week.

"That's terrible," said Chris Owens, who lives across the street from the theater and said he has seen about a dozen movies there since Screen Arts renovated it. Like many Prospect Heights and Park Slope natives, Owens, the son of Rep. Major Owens, remembers seeing movies there as a child.

When it first opened — named for comedian John Bunty — the movie house also ran a cigar shop in the lobby.

Many neighbors this week said they were sad to see the historic theater go.

Park Slope native Jackie Connor said the theater's former incarnation, the Plaza Theater, long ago earned the nickname "the itch house, because it wasn't so clean."

But Connor, who said she and her husband, Charles, often frequented the Flatbush Pavilion, will always remember the old Plaza theater for another reason.

"When James Dean died they showed a James Dean movie and I went just so I could cry some more," said Connor, who attended a special screening of "Rebel without a Cause," at the Plaza after the young actor was killed in a car crash in September 1955.

Cezar Del Valle, a theater historian and tour guide, said the

See **THEATER** on page 16

118 Second Avenue at 12th Street (near Pathmark)

See Lowes Grand Opening ad on page 2

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Gunpoint rob on Dean

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Three crooks looking for some fast cash held up a man at gunpoint inside his home near on Dean Street at Bergen street on May 11.

The victim, 40, answered a knock on his door at 10:20 pm. The man at the door asked for the man's wife by name.

But then the man burst through the door, gun in hand, along with two accomplices, knocking the victim to the ground.

After tying his hands behind his back and hitting him on the head, the crooks took \$1,700 out of his pocket and dragged him into the bedroom.

"Where's the money?" one man asked. He found \$6,000 in a dresser.

But that wasn't enough for the greedy thug who dragged the victim back into the living room and taped his mouth and eyes shut.

The attackers fled the apartment one by one. Along with the \$7,700 in cash, the men made off with a \$4,000 check, a cell phone and a driver's license, police said.

Floater ID'd

Police found the body of woman floating in the Buttermilk Channel near Conover Street and Hamilton Avenue in Red Hook.

The body was identified as Maritania Brigoli, 18, who was living in a homeless shelter at 116 Williams Ave. in Ocean Hill. The body was discovered at 9 am on Monday, May 17.

At press time the cause of death was under investigation.

AM mug

A man heading to work early Tuesday morning was stopped in his tracks by an armed mugger.

The victim, 47, was walking along Second Place and Henry Street at 6:10 am when a green SUV with tinted windows pulled up along side him.

"Do you know what this is?" one thug asked as he flashed the gun and then added, "You won't get hurt. Just give me your wallet."

The early morning riser, who was heading towards the subway, handed over his wallet containing \$100 in cash, as well as an IBM Think Pad laptop computer, a watch valued at \$500, and assorted credit cards.

84/76 BLOTTER

Cash and carry

A manager at the McDonald's on Fulton Street near Flatbush Avenue made a super-sized deposit that never appeared on the fast-food joint's books.

And then he quit.

The manager said he deposited a total of \$4,655 into the safe drop chute on May 8. But the cash was never recovered, according to the police report.

The manager quit May 12.

Crave case

He may have been craving a White Castle hamburger, but a Downtown crook left with something more valuable.

A 24-year-old Fort Greene resident was enjoying a meal at the fast food restaurant on Willoughby Street near Jay Street when a pesky bandit came over and flashed a black handgun.

The diner forked over his gold necklace with a gold cross, which he valued at \$2,000, and the suspect fled out the front door.



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The incident occurred at 8 pm on May 12.

No music

It wasn't just a love tap. A man walking to Park Slope on the F train felt a fellow rider fall against him just as the subway was nearing the Bergen Street subway station at Smith Street at midnight on May 5.

After the suspect exited the train he checked his bag and discovered that his iPod digital music player, valued at \$290, was missing, police said.

In-home mug

A masked mugger laying in wait followed a man into his home on Clinton Street between Kane and Degraw streets and forced him into the closet.

The victim, 54, was returning home at 2:45 pm on May 10 when the bandit — wearing a blue mask — pushed him past the door and pulled out a small knife, placing it against his back and pushing him into the closet.

The bandit took the man's wallet, which reportedly contained \$300, and fled.

Stick attack

A grown man should know better than to go around hitting people with tinder.

Police arrested a 37-year-old man on May 15 after he attacked two men with a stick.

Following a verbal dispute, the man attacked his 20-year-old acquaintance from Bay Ridge outside a store on Atlantic Avenue near Fourth Avenue at 11:10 am on May 15, police said.

When a Good Samaritan, 52, tried to jump in and break up the melee, he too received a swift beating about the head with the stick, police said.

Packed & gone

A suitcase is good for packing but can also come in handy when a thief breaks into your apartment and needs some way to carry out his booty.

A man returned home to his apartment on Henry Street near State Street and found the front door lock broken.

The victim, 41, told police that he had left his apartment at 9:15 am on May 14 and when returned at 4 pm two laptop computers, a Perry Ellis watch and a pair of silver cufflinks were missing along with his Samsonite suitcase.

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- Proof of Address (Lease, Utility Bill or a Letter From the Homeowner)

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 13th day of May, 2004, bearing the Index Number 1003582004, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 607, grants me rights to Assume the name of Nussli Romane Bailey. My present name is Nussli Romane Bailey. My present address is 342 Tenth Avenue, 4th Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11212. My place of birth is Brooklyn, NY. My date of birth is 02/04/1978.

State University of New York, Notice to Bidder. The State University of New York Osteopathic Medical Center will receive sealed Proposals for Project No. 02-042 Titled: Replace Radiology Units. Residence Units, Room #1-15, 888 where such proposals will be publicly opened and read about 4th work on this Contract is to be completed within 200 calendar days starting ten (10) calendar days after the contract approval date of the New York State Comptroller's Office and Contract Documents may be examined free of charge at the premises at the State University of New York Osteopathic Medical Center, 450 Clarkson Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11203 or (718) 279-2387, the Consultant. Section 143 of the State Finance Law requires payment of a deposit to receive these documents. Accordingly, a deposit check of \$25.00, made payable to Osteopathic Medical Center is required. Deposits less than \$50.00 are non-refundable. Bids must be submitted in duplicate in accordance with the instructions contained in the information for Bidder. Security will be required for each bid in an amount not less than five (5) percent of the Total Bid. It is the policy of the State of New York and the State University of New York to encourage minority business enterprise participation in this project by contractors, sub-contractors and suppliers, and all bidders are requested to cooperate in implementing this policy. The State University of New York reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

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78 PCT. BLOTTER

Nab 2 teens in bike theft

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Police arrested two teens this week after they tried to steal a bike from a man on Seventh Avenue near Second Street.

The teens approached the 35-year-old cyclist at 1:20 am on May 12.

When he did not immediately hand over the bike, one teen punched him in the face causing a bloody nose and then took the bike, police said.

After a brief struggle, the biker reclaimed his two-wheeler and police placed the two boys under arrest.

Lunch money

A student enjoying his lunch in the cafeteria at the Secondary School for Law, Journalism & Research — the former John Jay High School — was interrupted when two bullies approached and asked him for a dollar.

When the 15-year-old refused to hand over the money, the punks proceeded to rifle through his pockets. The pair eventually helped themselves to the victim's MP3 player, valued at \$150, and fled the school at Seventh Avenue and Fourth Street.

The incident occurred at 1:15 pm on May 10.

Rock head

A verbal dispute turned bloody this week when a man picked up a rock and struck his acquaintance on the head.

The two men were arguing on Sixth Street near Fourth Avenue at 1:12 pm on May 12 when one of them deemed it a good idea to fight back with a stone.

The victim, 40, suffered major head bleeding and was taken to New York Methodist Hospital where he received several stitches, police said.

Bottle basher

Sticks and stones may break your bones but a plastic bottle can still really hurt.

A 14-year-old student at the Secondary School for Law, Journalism & Research learned that lesson the hard way this

week when a girl stormed into the classroom and chucked a bottle at his head.

The victim was left with cuts to his left eye and the 14-year-old assailant was placed under arrest.

The incident occurred at 12:20 pm on May 13.

\$1 a punch

A teen walking down Garfield Place near Sixth Avenue was stopped by a man who asked for a dollar.

When he declined to oblige the suspect responded with a swift punch in the face.

The Park Slope teen, who was just blocks from his house when the incident occurred, at 8 pm, on May 6, suffered bruising and swelling to his right eye, police said.

Train snatcher

A man riding a Brooklyn-bound R train was in for a surprise when a crook grabbed the gold chain off his neck.

The victim, 44, said the assailant pulled the necklace off him and then ran off the subway at Union Street and Fourth Avenue just after 5 pm on May 13.

The suspect made off with the chain, valued at \$300, as well as a gold crucifix pendant, reportedly valued at \$500, police said.

Chopper taken

Riding a motorcycle may be cool, but there's nothing less cool than returning to fetch your bike and finding out that it's not there.

That's what happened to a 31-year-old hot rodder who parked his 2004 Yamaha sports bike at Third Street and Fifth Avenue at 2 am on May 6.

The man affixed locks to the front and rear tires but that didn't stop a persistent thief from making off with the motorcycle.

When the motorist returned at 1 pm the same day the vehicle was gone.

Caddy un-parked

A New Jersey resident parked his black Cadillac Escalade at a parking garage on Ninth Street between Second and Third avenues at 6:30 am on May 10.

But when he returned just before 2 pm the car was gone, police said.



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BRING A FRIEND!

By Deborah Kolben The Brooklyn Papers

Fabiano Caruano is no slouch when it comes to dealing with reporters.

Which comes as no surprise considering the bespectacled Park Slope chess champ has graced the pages of the New Yorker, competed everywhere from Bogota to Budapest, and flown across the country in a private jet — twice.

Not bad considering he isn't even 12 yet.

Fabiano, a sixth grader at Andries Hudde Intermediate School 240 in Midwood, made headlines two years ago when he became the youngest

person ever to defeat a chess grandmaster.

This month, Fabiano took home the U.S. Chess Federation Junior High School Champion award after beating 141 other opponents in Tucson, Ariz.

Battling a stomach flu, the pint-size virtuoso won the competition with an impressive score of 6.5, out of a possible 7, winning six rounds and tying one.

Originally he wasn't even going to attend to the competition, but he changed his mind a week before.

The soft-spoken Park Slope kid practices chess more than 25 hours a week. When he is-

n't taking on invisible opponents over the Internet, Fabiano is working with one of his two trainers.

"I like the tactical stuff," he said when asked what he likes best about the game.

Fabiano's chess life began when his parents, Lou and Santina Caruana, enrolled him in a chess class at the Garfield Temple on Eighth Avenue in Park Slope at the suggestion of one of his teachers at the private Berkeley-Carroll School where he was attending.

The chess teacher noticed his talent and told chess master Bruce Pandolfini about the five-year-old ace.

Pandolfini — who achieved some widespread notoriety when Ben Kingsley portrayed him in the movie "Searching for Bobby Fischer," about another young chess star he taught — took Fabiano under his wing.

The young chess whiz no longer works with Pandolfini, but he still counts the movie among his favorites.

"I've seen it about 20 times," Fabiano says, sitting in the living room of his Second Street home, surrounded by dozens of trophies and a large chess set on the dining room table.

"It's kind of like my life," he says, speaking of the movie.

Several days a week Fabiano slips on a headset and dials up his out-of-state coach, Gregory Kaidanov, a chess grandmaster who lives in Lexington, Ky.

On the other days, he practices at the Marshall Chess Club in Manhattan or works with Brooklyn coach Miron Sherma who also travels with him to competitions.

"He's like part of the family," says Lou Caruana.

The chess wins come with few monetary rewards and luckily Fabiano has a private sponsor, who insists on anonymity and helps flip the bills for coaches and travel. He also occasionally lends the prodigy his private jet to travel to tournaments.

Fabiano graciously endures

a few more questions from a reporter before retreating into his bedroom and logging onto a chess Web site.

When the chess master isn't gallivanting across the globe, you can most often find him behind a computer screen strategizing and refining his moves.

Logging on with the handle "Pawn-Artist," Fabiano competes against opponents worldwide.

"I like playing on the Internet better, you can see your opponent's history," Fabiano says as he starts a game with somebody named "Klunk."

While he one day aspires to become a doctor or a lawyer, in the short term Fabiano is gunning to become a chess grandmaster by age 14 or 15.

What's the hardest part of it all?

"Sometimes when you play somebody, you don't want to beat them," he says,



Flay-va-ful

The recently opened Lowe's Home Improvement store on Second Avenue and 12th Street at the Gowanus Canal, welcomed celebrity chef Bobby Flay on May 14 to demonstrate grilling.



Fabiano Caruano, 11, a sixth-grader at Andries Hudde Junior High School, at home in Park Slope. Caruano recently won the U.S. Chess Federation 2004 National Junior High Chess Championship in Tucson, Ariz.



Snake charmer

At the Brooklyn Children's Museum gala at the New York Marriott Brooklyn Monday night, Sen. Hillary Clinton was a no-show, but Andre LaCorbiere and his Burmese python "Fantasia" curled up with the senator's book, "Living History."

Closing the Gaps

By Randi Weingarten

In the Campaign for Fiscal Equity case the courts have ruled that the state must ensure that every child in New York State has access to a sound, basic education, and they have set a July 30 deadline for development of a plan to provide the resources and reforms needed to make it happen.

Estimates for what a sound, basic education for every student in the state will cost range from \$2.5 billion to upwards of \$20 billion. The Mayor has already asked for \$5.3 billion for the city.

Whatever the state Legislature and the Governor agree to do, the state must begin the process by providing a down payment — as groups ranging from UPA, the United Parents Association, to PENCIL, the business group that sponsors Principal for a Day, have recommended. Given the pressing needs of our system, there are many places where these funds could be spent. But the best way to begin would be by pledging \$1.5 billion of the CFE, down payment to address two problems that have long plagued our schools: the salary gap and the student achievement gap.

Closing the salary gap

Experience shows that when you focus resources to ensure a qualified teacher in every classroom with a reduced class size — as was done with the More Effective Schools program of the 1960s and the now disbanded Chancellor's District program of the late 1990s — children surge ahead regardless of their socioeconomic background.

But attracting and retaining great teachers have become continuing challenges in New York City schools, in large part due to the gap between New York City teacher salaries and those in sur-

rounding communities — a gap that is currently \$10,000 to \$15,000 wide.

Retirements have surged to record levels while thousands of newer teachers leave after struggling with oversized classes, poor student discipline, supply shortages and a lack of support from school administrators. A recent City Council investigation concluded that New York City will need to recruit as many as 30,000 new teachers over the next three years just to fill in for those who leave.

What will it take for New York City schools to stop this brain drain? The first step should be to close the yawning salary gap, and the city — following the advice of two recent blue-ribbon panels, one chaired by former IBM chief Lou Gerstner and the other chaired by Frank Zarb — should devote itself to providing competitive salaries across the board, using \$750 million of the CFE down payment.

And to ensure accountability, we would negotiate an expansion of our Peer Intervention Program to help struggling teachers improve or counsel them out of the profession.

The student achievement gap

We propose using the other \$750 million to create a New York City School Enterprise Zone to help turn around 200 struggling schools. The zone would target the money to reduce class size, extend the school day for small group instruction for children who are falling behind, and provide a broad spectrum of instructional, health and social services.

City schools in the Enterprise Zone would also have enriched curricula including art, music, foreign languages and career and



technical exploration; special reading and math programs chosen by school staff from scientifically proven models; expanded health and physical education programs; and a strictly enforced school discipline code. For elementary schools we would add enriched early childhood programs beginning in an expanded pre-k program and including a promotional gate in grade one to ensure that children keep pace in learning to read.

All educators in these schools — which are among the most difficult to staff — would also receive an additional 15 percent pay differential to encourage and reward those who volunteer to work in these very demanding situations.

Making it happen

Turning cutting-edge proposals like these into reality requires a real spirit of cooperation among City Hall, the Department of Education and the UFT. We stand ready and willing to walk the halls of Albany together with the Mayor and the Chancellor to get this done. After all, when it comes to helping our kids, we have a moral obligation to work together regardless of our differences.

Let 2004 be remembered as the year we took bold steps to close the teacher salary gap and the student achievement gap. Let it be remembered — as we acknowledge the 50-year anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education — as the year in which we fulfilled the case's promise in New York City by providing students and teachers with the resources and reforms needed for all schools to succeed.

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NOT JUST NETS • THE NEW BROOKLYN • NOT JUST NETS

Arena costs us 100s of millions

Ratner exec says taxpayers will pay

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Just how much will a Brooklyn basketball arena cost New York City taxpayers?

If you ask developer Bruce Ratner, his 8 million-square-foot Atlantic Yards project—including soaring office and residential towers—is a privately funded project that will pay for itself in the tax revenue it generates.

And in a citywide poll the Brooklyn project received soaring approval for costing little while the public has slammed the proposed Jets football stadium for the westside of Manhattan that officials say will require \$300 million each from the city and state.

But at the recent City Council hearing on the arena project,

a Ratner executive estimated millions in taxpayer dollars would go to build the 21-acre development emanating from the intersection of Flatbush and Atlantic avenues. Pressed by President Councilwoman Christine Quinn at the May 5 hearing about how much public money would be needed to build Atlantic Yards, Forest City Ratner Vice President James Stuckey was evasive, first saying only that it would be less than \$1 billion and more than \$10 million.

Pushed further by Quinn, who asked if the price tag would be in "the hundreds of millions," Stuckey said, "I think that's fair."

Development Corporation President Andrew Alper, who testified at the same hearing, endorsed the project but said he didn't know yet how much the city was expected to contribute.

However, Alper did quote a \$620 million price tag just on the arena, almost \$200 million more than Ratner's estimate of the cost.

Why the difference?

Alper at the hearing to provide numbers on the number of taxpayer dollars that would go into the project, balked about the "hundreds of millions" figure. "That sounds a lot," Yassky told The Brooklyn Papers after the hearing.

"I want to hear the case as to what would justify that," he said, adding, "I would like to see

Bruce Ratner

"The arena cost is \$430 million and the other \$200 million or so is infrastructure costs. But that's part of the negotiations to determine how much city and state and other parties will pay for that," said Michael Shlensman, a spokesman for EDC, when asked this week about the discrepancy.

Sherman declined to comment on whether the \$200 million represented the total public contribution to the project.

Councilman David Yassky, whose Downtown Brooklyn district is adjacent to the proposed development, pressed

the arena happen. I think that as long as it is not a burden on taxpayers it is good for Brooklyn.

"I would like to see it happen without being a burden on taxpayers," said Kevin Zeese, a spokesman for Ratner.

"We don't have an actual dollar amount because it has to be negotiated with the city and state," said Ratner spokesman Joe DePasco.

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Consumer advocate and potential presidential spoiler Ralph Nader is coming to town this week to speak out against the proposed Brooklyn arena and Westside Manhattan stadium projects.

An outspoken opponent of government-sponsored sports facilities, Nader runs a Web site, leagueofnada.org, devoted to educating the public about the sports industry.

Ralph Nader opposes corporate welfare and sees stadium agreements where the government pays for

the stadium and the corporations get the benefit as a form of corporate welfare bonobondage for very wealthy owners of sports franchises," said Kevin Zeese, a spokesman for Nader.

Nader will host a news conference in Manhattan on Monday afternoon to speak out against the stadium and part of his Northeast campaign tour.

But many Ratner arena opponents won't be attending.

"We don't want to get involved in partisan politics," said Daniel Goldstein, a spokesman for Development Don't Destroy—Brooklyn, a group of area tenants, residents and businesses who oppose the project.

"But we fully support Mr. Nader's position on the Ratner proposal and the Westside Development proposal," Goldstein added.

Nader raised the ire of many Democrats in 2000 who blamed him for taking away enough votes from Al Gore to give George Bush the presidency. And he has carried little favor from the party with his 2004 run as an independent, which many Democrats believe will hurt the presumed Democratic nominee, John Kerry, more than Bush.

Developer Bruce Ratner is looking to build a \$2.5-billion residential, retail and commercial development at the intersection of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues extending into Prospect Heights.

In order to build the \$435 million arena to house his newly purchased New Jersey Nets, Ratner needs to purchase air rights to build over the MTA rail yards and must buy out or ask the state to condemn much of the rest of the property.

It is still not clear how much public money will be needed to build the project, but a Ratner executive said it was most likely in "the hundreds of millions."

At the same time, the Jets are looking to build a new stadium on the Westside that would cost \$600 million in public financing.

WATERFRONT...

Continued from page 1

own decision about the future of the port," said Evan Thies, a spokesman for Councilman David Yassky, chairman of the Waterfront Committee.

The Brooklyn Papers this week drafted a Freedom of Information Act request asking that EDC turn over a copy of the study.

"I think that will come as news to all of us who participated in what we thought was a transparent and public process," said Craig Hammerman, district manager of Community Board 6.

Asked about EDC and the Port Authority using the study only for "internal use," Hammerman said, "I think they would be pressed to find a seal from this end of the world who ever heard that statement uttered."

Community Board 6 has advocated for continued maritime use on the piers, which straddle the Columbia Street Waterfront District and Red Hook waterfront from Atlantic Avenue down to Pioneer Street.

As for community input, the board, which represents Carroll Gardens, Cobble Hill, the Columbia Street District, Gowanus, Park Slope and Red Hook, called the public participation process "crucially flawed" in a report issued last October.

"I guess they didn't release it because it's an incomplete study," said Sal Canucci, owner of American Stevedoring, which operates a container port out of all but one of those piers.

"It's just a sham," said Canucci, who clashed with John Alschuler, the lead consultant on the project, at several of the public meetings.

In response to growing interest in the piers from potential tenants, the Port Authority issued a request for proposals last year to explore other options for the piers.

The piers study kicked off last summer, supposedly in time to determine the future of the piers before Canucci's lease ran out. But the lease expired on April 30 and the company is currently still negotiating with the city for an extension.

Rep. Jerrold Nadler, whose district cuts across from Manhattan to Brooklyn and includes the piers, also criticized the study.

"We disagreed with a lot of the premises on which the study was started," said Robert Gotheim, Nader's Brooklyn director of operations.

From the beginning Nadler, a working waterfront proponent, criticized the city for embarking on the study instead of negotiating with American Stevedoring for a new lease.

‘Schlack’ attack
Longshoremen chow down to raise working w’front awarenessBy Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Nick DeSilvio took home the "Schlackie Award" this week when he devoured nine mini-hamburgers in six minutes, beating out his fellow longshoremen at the first-ever hamburger-eating contest on the Red Hook waterfront.

The 23-year-old Bensonhurst native and eating contest rookie said he prepared for the big day by not eating breakfast.

"It's not as easy as it looks," said DeSilvio, who

beat out co-worker Danny Drew by just one bite. Drew, who lives on Staten Island, fessed up to eating a bagel with cream cheese for breakfast and feared he might have been his downfall.

Chef Harry Hawk, who co-owns Schlack restaurant on Union Street off the Flatbush Avenue, provided 100 of his 99-cent Schlackie burgers, sometimes referred to as "sliders," for the contest, which kicked off at high noon on May 7 at the Red Hook Container Port at Pier 9 off Columbia Street.

Surrounded by cranes, top loaders and a container ship, DeSilvio said he "felt a little full" but would be able to return to work.

American Stevedoring, which operates the container terminal, organized the event. The company is still negotiating to renew its lease for the 100-acre facility with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and the city Economic Development Corp. DeSilvio took home a \$200 Schlackie gift certificate and said he planned on using it to order lunch for everybody.

How about some real NYC architecture?

To the editor:

Regarding the proposed "development" of the Atlantic Yards and Downtown Brooklyn:

I may be reducing this by a couple of steps, but essentially, the modern architecture movement gave us big glass boxes with flat roofs, no set backs. Then, catching on to the fact that we noticed we'd been conned, they evolved the big boring glass box into a mishmash, or as the critics fancifully describe it, "billowing" glass box. So we moved from straight glass boxes to distorted glass boxes — not a big improvement. And now, they are giving some of these to us in Brooklyn.

While I'm in no way underplaying the eminent domain issue and the very real fact that some may lose their homes (and with the current New York State leniency towards eminent domainers, anyone could be taken), I don't think it's an additional issue that is making the imposition on us of these buildings equally offensive. We are being offered buildings devoid of architecture.

I liken the appreciation of these proposed buildings, among the highfalutin, to a group clustered around an artist's empty canvas, proclaiming its brilliance and trying to ascribe meaning to it. They have to over-intellectualize it in order to ascribe any meaning to it. Otherwise, there's no real substance — the Emperor's new clothes.

Look at the renderings for Atlantic Yards in context of what's already there. We have the superbly understated, stepped back, refined Williamsburgh Savings Bank Tower coming to its noble clock tower conclusion. Proposed as its neighbor is the big, bulky, trapezoidal, flat-topped box clumsily pilorinated on a couple of silly looking 1-don't-know-what-and-pepper-shakers-with-cheated-top? Does Frank Gehry live in Brooklyn? Does he say what makes the borough so special? Which of the two buildings, given the choice, would you readers select?

Which gets me to my point. This "progress" might be easier to swallow if we were being given real buildings, buildings which borrow, grow from, develop on, refer to some of the greatest New York architecture, the buildings we love to look at and share with out-of-towners, such as the Woolworth building, Chrysler building, Guggenheim etc. (and many lose, only to be replaced by glass boxes).

As a true complement to the Brooklyn Academy of Music, how about giving us our own Flatiron building, instead of the space ship Enrique Norton is proposing for the BAM Library? Architecture should develop on tradition, not side-step it, and Brooklynites, being educated, cultured, successful and not at all against real progress are sufficiently down to earth to know the difference.

—Meir Kahlan, Cobble Hill

Send us a letter

By mail: Letters Editor, The Brooklyn Papers, 26 Court St., Brooklyn, NY 11242. By fax: (718) 834-9278. By e-mail: Newsroom@BrooklynPapers.com. Letters may be edited and will not be returned.

LETTERS

Ratner needs new trick

To the editor:

I am writing to express my comments on the article "Ratner buyout silences critics" (The Brooklyn Papers). Upon reading the article, I could only laugh when it was reported Ratner wants the residents to sign a gag order to get money he should be paying in the first place. It is just another example of an old dog using an old trick.

Before Ratner could build Metrotech, the residents who were to be displaced took him to court, and old Bruce used the same gag order tactic when he had to pay them. If Bruce is such an honest businessman, then the residents should not have to sign a gag order about money.

To prove that he is a class act, Mr. Ratner will have to be honest with the public.

He is building a small city in between several neighborhoods, after he got away with financial and management blunders like Atlantic Center and Metrotech.

For someone who is the biggest developer in New York City, one would figure he would actually get better, not worse, at his developments. The Atlantic Terminal building for the Bank of New York is taller than the verised. Calling his [Atlantic Center mall] structure ugly would be a compliment, not an insult, and it was designed that way on purpose to not attract gang activity.

Ratner made false promises to the residents of the Walt Whitman and Ingersoll housing projects for jobs when Metrotech was built. Why should the public not be angry when it comes to Ratner and associates?

The Downtown Brooklyn Council (BAM, Verizon, Polytech and Keyspan, along with Forest City Ratner) I had made themselves the public interest, without even bothering to ask the public about their Downtown Brooklyn Plan.

Upon reading The City Planning report on their Web site, someone must have rocks in their head if they think

traffic can be solved. I find it no surprise the businesses and residents that are located on Duffield Street, Bridge Street and Lawrence Street are to be sacrificed. If you own a business or work in Downtown Brooklyn guess what, your days are numbered.

If expanding Metrotech is progress, then it is time to cut up Webster's and all the other companies that publish dictionaries and thesauruses and change the definition of the word. I love it when they say, "You're anti-development" — the translation of the development is "G" who is not stupid enough to believe the hype."

In closing, this is one of the few times where I am actually glad that history repeated itself. Bruce Ratner should perhaps pursue more honest paths of operation. If he would like to improve his image with all the people who know the baggage he carries, perhaps he should create high-paying jobs for the community and follow through. However, don't hold your breath waiting for him to do so.

—Daniel McCalla, Fort Greene

Money earns Ratner respect

To the editor:

I want to commend [The Brooklyn Papers] on what is sadly some of the only truthful reporting on the destructive, extensive ripple effect that Ratner's arena plan would cause all of Brooklyn.

It saddens me that an organization like ACORN can so swiftly and quickly forget the redlining, and destructive urban renewal, that plagued that area of Brooklyn for decades.

If Ratner could not listen to the "pro" community at a City Council meeting, why do proponents of this destructive plan believe that their input and vision will be recognized as the plan goes further? This is my burning question. I sat through the nine hours of council hearings, and the alternate plans presented by Councilwoman [Letitia] James and Marshall Brown and Joe Towers were not only inspiring, beautiful and COM-

MUNITY BASED, but they do not cause a single destruction or displacement to the community — nor did they include high rises that would hide the beauty of that area.

The people in the building may have "cut deals" and sold, but perhaps The Brooklyn Papers and others might consider why? Those signs are not missing out of the plans that Ratner has proposed — taking down signs and lashing any opposition was part of the contract. Sell me your apartment AND shut up about it. Perhaps the belief that they have a voice, that they could have beaten Ratner and the faith in Democracy over power and money have been lost. The implications of what tonant selling money is far more than "making money." It signifies the power of greed in politics and "urban renewal" in this city. Why have we become so detached from history?

Make no mistake, even those who have sold so early on — even if they have made money in this process — they are still victims of displacement.

The signs may be down but the sentiments still linger!

—Deborah Goldstein, Park Slope

Arena foes not dead

To the editor:

Regarding Deborah Kolben's May 8 article, "Coalition Cracking," Develop-Don't Destroy (BROOKLYN) does not intend to number despite: 1) the notion of the team's move, and 2) a team that has historically been at the bottom of the league's standings.

Some argue that New Jersey doesn't even deserve to keep the Nets because of poor ratings at the turnstiles. But the team has only recently been competitive, let alone of championship caliber. The excitement of playoff games have produced capacity crowds for the past couple weeks. A new arena deal for the mass transit hub of Newark, which the New Jersey Devils hockey franchise is now seeking, would also certainly make an impact on attendance.

Let's face it. Ratner and company are part of the effort to bring the 2012 Olympics to New York. Just look at the recent media blitz for the proposed Upper West Side stadium. Concerned residents and fans alike should know that both the actual sale and the Nets move have yet to be approved by the

it. "Develop Don't Destroy" refers not just to homes, but to our communities, our streets, our neighborhoods, the democratic process and our demand that we, the people, be allowed to shape our futures in Brooklyn.

—Daniel Goldstein, Develop-Don't Destroy (BROOKLYN) member and Prospect Heights resident

Let Jersey keep nets

To the editor:

Like many NY-area sports fanatics, I've cheered the Nets and their lobbying efforts for my beloved New Jersey Nets. After all, the pursuit of a championship is like an unfolding reality show drama.

Now my hopes turn to a different angle: 360 degrees.

The pending development deal that would move the New Jersey Nets basketball team to a new home in Downtown Brooklyn has miffed many on both sides of the river. The complicated issues include: eminent domain, public funding, massive construction, horrendous traffic, site property, city zoning and jobs feasibility.

It is true that New Jersey fans haven't consistently sold-out the Nets current residence. However, during the past three years that fan base has been building in number despite: 1) the notion of the team's move, and 2) a team that has historically been at the bottom of the league's standings.

Some argue that New Jersey doesn't even deserve to keep the Nets because of poor ratings at the turnstiles. But the team has only recently been competitive, let alone of championship caliber. The excitement of playoff games have produced capacity crowds for the past couple weeks. A new arena deal for the mass transit hub of Newark, which the New Jersey Devils hockey franchise is now seeking, would also certainly make an impact on attendance.

Let's face it. Ratner and company are part of the effort to bring the 2012 Olympics to New York. Just look at the recent media blitz for the proposed Upper West Side stadium. Concerned residents and fans alike should know that both the actual sale and the Nets move have yet to be approved by the

National Basketball Association. Likewise, New York is still awaiting the final results of the Olympics committee.

Perhaps the business group led by Charles Kushner, who matched the asking price but was not awarded the sale, may just still want another shot at having his bid considered. Regardless, I hope the NBA deflates the prospect of a move, even if they validate the sale itself.

Anti-arena groups in Brooklyn need to further get involved with pro-New Jersey rallies and petitions. The Web site www.joetennas.com has already organized protests, and NBA lobby efforts but it's not enough. If the Nets are to stay in New Jersey, public outcry needs to come to the forefront. Keep saying "NO!" We'll all possibly see our proverbial three-point buzzer shot go "swish" into the Nets good night.

—Christopher Susaul, Park Slope

Change council hearing rules

To the editor:

It was gratifying though puzzling to read of the public outrage at the City Council hearing [on the proposed Bruce Ratner arena complex]. For it is a standard operating procedure that the City Council hears agency representatives first and that the public has to wait several hours to speak. Those of us who have been involved in the issue of post-9-11 contamination have been through this frustrating and skewed process many times.

Invariably we testify last after all but one or two members of the council have left. Even independent scientists have had to wait until the end of some hearings. We have complained about these conditions, only to be told that government agencies have stipulated that if they're not allowed to testify first, they won't show up at all.

But the process is self-defeating since the press often leaves at noon to file stories of which they've only heard one side. This is one reason why it took so long for the truth to come out about the environmental disaster of 9-11.

—Jenna Orin, Downtown Brooklyn, WTC Environmental Organization member

Brooklyn Papers PARENT

Dealing with child's attachment disorder

Q: Our adopted 10-year-old son has a severe attachment disorder because of what he missed out on in his early years in an orphanage in Russia. Our neighbors and his teachers don't understand that what works for other kids doesn't apply to him.

—A mother
A: In the lives of kids who struggle to love, the lack of understanding stems from not seeing or hearing both sides of the story, parents and experts say.

One mother says of the adorable Russian boy she adopted at age 4: "He told his teachers I wouldn't help him with his homework. He left out the part about how he was stabbing holes in the wall with pencils so I had to take them away."

Neighbors worried about another boy who only had a mattress on the floor. What they didn't know: He chipped

away the wood of the headboard to use as little weapons. Lark Eshtelman, PhD, author of the new book "Becoming a Family: Promoting Healthy Attachments with Your Adopted Child" (Taylor Publishing Company, 2004), says adopted mothers particularly tend to take the brunt of the disturbed child's aggression, disrespect and emotional outbursts.

The missing piece for kids with an inability to form relationships is a lack of conscience, Eshtelman says. Babies are born with a need to attach. Every time a baby cries and a caregiver answers, trust builds. If nobody answers repeatedly, the cycle of trust is broken.

Normal parenting doesn't work for the child who doesn't trust and accept limits.

"Few people will ever really understand what she and her husband are going through,"

says Brad Andrews of Garland, Texas. "They usually end up blaming the parents for things that are out of their control."

The Andrews adopted four siblings 10 years ago. The older two, ages 5 and 7 when adopted, have faced severe attachment issues. Last year, while the couple focused on their 17-year-old daughter, their son, 14, ran away, made threats, and had to be placed in a long-term care facility, the father says.

"Looking back, I can see he had all the signs of attachment disorder, but since he was more sociable, we didn't realize how deep his issues really were," he says.

A mother who adopted a toddler has a common complaint among parents: Her daughter appeared charming and suggested parents of kids with attachment problems remember that other lack experience

with the disorder and need to be educated in positive ways.

Parent-to-Parent

by Betsy Flieger

chances. The schools failed me. Maggie Macaulay, an adult adoptee and parent educator suggests parents of kids with attachment problems remember that other lack experience with the disorder and need to be educated in positive ways.

"Enroll folks in your mission to teach your child that people, especially Mom and Dad, are reliable, that it is OK to love deeply, that his family is forever, and that he is lovable," Macaulay says.

"Have meetings throughout the school year with teachers. Let new teachers know how they can help."

Other tips: "The mother must advocate for her son," says Linda Lisowski, a former foster mother and an associate professor of special education. "If he has academic problems, he is eligible for special education services as a child with an emotional disorder." An Individualized Education Program needs to be developed with the mother.

"Find a support group with other adoptive parents. The Association for Treatment and Training in the Attachment of Children (ATTACH), based in Columbia, S.C., is an international coalition of parents, professionals and others working to increase awareness about attachment issues. Call (866) 453-8224 for more information. The Web site is www.attachment.org.

A 20-year-old reader, and his adoptive mother offer seasoned advice: He says lack of attention and care in his first

year of foster care was distressing. "People like us naturally have a tendency to distrust others. Even though I don't fully trust my parents, I love them very much."

His mother's view: "Our son doesn't trust so he hasn't ever been honest with the doctors, and he's always been diagnosed with less serious problems. Our son has been a difficult person to enjoy, but now that he's grown I would recommend to the next parent — don't take things away to make them do what you want. Help them learn, whether it's to put one problem on a page or to assist them in cleanup as a young child. The most needy or worst-behaved child needs to be loved the most and in a constant way."

Several social workers and parents recommend resources by attachment therapist Nancy Thomas, including the book "When Love is Not Enough: A Guide to Parenting Children with RAD—Reactive Attachment Disorder" (Families by Design, 1997). Thomas also has videotapes, including "Captivity in the Classroom." For more information, her Web site is www.nancythomaspublishing.com.

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Why 30s are the new 20s

By Samantha Critchell
Associated Press

This should be the time of year when new college graduates celebrate their independence, moving into a home they can finally call their own.

"Should" is the operative word.

In reality, many twentysomethings are living in their childhood rooms, struggling to reconcile their status as working adults with their traditional role within the family.

This full-nest syndrome is not easy on parents, either.

"When you go into bookstores, there are loads of shelves about toddlers, babies, maternity, even some on teenagers, but there is nothing about parenting adult children," says Susan Morris Shaffer, co-author of "Mom, Can I Move Back in With You? A Survival Guide for Parents of Twentysomethings" (Tarcher/Penguin).

Parents who thought the teenage years posed challenges might soon realize that they were just a warmup for "adulthood," which can hit anytime between 18 and 30, says Linda Perlman Gordon.

The markers of adulthood for past generations just don't apply anymore, Gordon says, since it's unlikely that a 21-year-old will be starting a family, buying a house and become established in a career path right out of the gate.

"You can't see this age as black or white. They are not kids and, in some ways, they're not adults; 30 is the new 20," she says.

Gordon, a clinical social worker, family therapist and trained mediator, is the mother of 21- and 30-year-olds; Shaffer is the deputy director of gender equity programs at the Mid-Atlantic Equity Center and is the mother of 21- and 28-year-olds. Both live in Chevy Chase, Md.

Parents are parents for life but usually there is a change in style and expectations once "children" finish their schooling and join the work force, Shaffer says. However, she adds, respecting adult children's independence can be hard when they are still eating food parents pay for, wearing clothes parents pay for and borrowing their parents' car.

Complicating things further is that there is less of a generation gap than ever before as parents and children share tastes in entertainment and recreation.

Gordon notes the contradiction that today's children seem to be so much more sophisticated than previous generations because they are exposed to so much more at a younger age.

For instance, even though they might have a credit card as teenagers, they have no idea how to handle a checkbook to pay off their bills, she says.

"Sixty-two percent of current college graduates expect to move back home. My generation would have rather died," Shaffer says.

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By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Residents in northern Brooklyn Heights were surprised to learn this week that a developer who recently purchased a former affordable-housing loft building, known as the Candy Factory, plans to build on its adjacent courtyard.

Concerns about height, size, blocked views and structural damage all surfaced once neighbors along Poplar and Henry streets got wind of the planned development, adjacent to the 20 Henry St. building, after a tenant noticed workers drilling in the courtyard.

When they asked about the drilling, a worker told them about the planned building.

Still more surprising to some residents was word that the Brooklyn Heights Association (BHA) learned about the project at the end of March, when they met with attorney Howard Hornstein who represents the new owner, the Praedium Group, but kept mum about the project.

"I think it should have been a little more public," said Karen Zebulun, one of the last remaining tenants at 20 Henry St., who has been living there since the mid 1970s.

"I don't think the [BHA] should be the only ones to decide on this. Why should they be the ones to look at the drawings?" asked Zebulun.

Asked why the organization's decision did not inform neighbors about the plans, Judy Stanton, executive director of the BHA said, "There wasn't enough to reach out with, when we reach out it's with facts...The meeting we had with the owner was so preliminary with so much more information to be gotten."

The building at the corner of Henry and Middle streets, which once housed the Peaks

This Candy Factory courtyard, near Poplar Street, could be replaced by a building.

Mason Mints candy factory, had been affordable, Mitchell-Lama housing for artists since the mid-1970s.

Last year, then-owner Edward Person bought his way out of the program as was his right after 30 years. He then sold the building to the Praedium Group.

Two-thirds of the tenants have already been evicted to make way for the market-rate housing and the dozen remain are fighting their case in housing court.

Hornstein, the owner's attorney, declined to comment on the number of units or height of the proposed new building.

"We're still in the initial stages of talking about a building with the Landmarks Preservation Commission and we're in discussions with the Brooklyn Heights Association on the design," said Hornstein.

"In 60 days we'll be able to do more definitively about the design," he said.

Because the building is in

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF HILLBURN CHARTER CARE SERVICES. Lutherman Medical Center, 150 State Street, Brooklyn, NY will no longer make available from June 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004, uncompensated services to all eligible patients unable to pay who request those services. Lutherman Medical Center will resume providing uncompensated services to all eligible patients beginning January 2005. We invite interested parties to comment on this availability period. This Notice is published in accordance with 23 CFR 134.504. Notice of Availability and Uncompensated Services and will be effective June 1, 2004.

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the Brooklyn Heights Historic District it will need the landmarks commission's approval.

Diane Jackler, a spokeswoman for the agency, said no application had been submitted but that there have been some preliminary discussions.

Councilman David Yassky, upset over evictions of the current tenants, expressed frustration about any new plans the

developer might have.

"This landlord has proven himself to be a terrible developer and clearly has no regard for his tenants. And this is just another example of that," said Yassky when he learned about the plans this week.

In addition to blocked views, neighbors are concerned that drilling and excavation could damage the historic old building.

The landmark building is now a residential facility for the Jehovah's Witnesses and about 40 holdouts who refused to be bought out when the building was sold.

Montague Street real estate broker William Ross estimated the Watchtower's Brooklyn Heights holdings "in the hundreds of millions."

The Watchtower Society began buying property in the area in the 1960s, when brownstones cost about \$60,000. Now those same buildings fetch anywhere from \$2 million to \$3 million, according to Ross.

"Returning those buildings to the open market... would be a perfectly good and acceptable change," said Judy Stanton, executive director of the Brooklyn Heights Association, who said it would increase the tax base for the area.

Because it is a non-profit religious organization, the Watchtower Society does not pay property taxes. But six of its buildings, like the Besset, that still have outside tenants pay a prorated tax assessment.

"The Watchtower is a very responsible property owner in Brooklyn Heights," Stanton added. "Their record of maintenance on property is pretty exemplary."

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the Brooklyn Heights Historic District it will need the landmarks commission's approval.

Diane Jackler, a spokeswoman for the agency, said no application had been submitted but that there have been some preliminary discussions.

Councilman David Yassky, upset over evictions of the current tenants, expressed frustration about any new plans the

developer might have.

"This landlord has proven himself to be a terrible developer and clearly has no regard for his tenants. And this is just another example of that," said Yassky when he learned about the plans this week.

In addition to blocked views, neighbors are concerned that drilling and excavation could damage the historic old building.

The landmark building is now a residential facility for the Jehovah's Witnesses and about 40 holdouts who refused to be bought out when the building was sold.

Montague Street real estate broker William Ross estimated the Watchtower's Brooklyn Heights holdings "in the hundreds of millions."

The Watchtower Society began buying property in the area in the 1960s, when brownstones cost about \$60,000. Now those same buildings fetch anywhere from \$2 million to \$3 million, according to Ross.

"Returning those buildings to the open market... would be a perfectly good and acceptable change," said Judy Stanton, executive director of the Brooklyn Heights Association, who said it would increase the tax base for the area.

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

May 22, 2004

Beyond Pinocchio

St. Ann's Warehouse showcases the next generation of puppeteers

By Paulanne Simmons
for The Brooklyn Papers

Emerging puppet artists will once again present their works-in-progress at the annual "Labapalooza" mini festival of new puppet theater at St. Ann's Warehouse in DUMBO, May 28 through June 6.

In the vanguard of the two-decade-long march from children's entertainment to mainstream media (witness Broadway's "Avenue Q"), Ars at St. Ann's has been nurturing puppet artists in its Puppet Lab since 1997.

"The lab is a development think tank," says "Labapalooza" director Dan Hurlin. "We look over applications in the fall, and out of 25 or so, we select about eight to sink time and resources into. Being part of the lab doesn't mean you have to show. These are works-in-progress. Sometimes they aren't ready to show. And that is fine."

This year, Hurlin has joined forces with David Neuman.

"He's had experience with puppetry," says Hurlin. "He choreographed Amy Trumpeter's 'The Barber of Seville' last year at St. Ann's Warehouse. I thought it would be great to have a choreographer. Ultimately, it's always the movement of the puppets—that's how the puppets speak. Puppetry is closer to dance than to theater. I thought it would be good to have someone who speaks the language of puppets."

But if puppets all speak the same language, they have many different accents. Hurlin says he uses the broader definition of puppets, which is "any performing object." Among the types of puppets that will be on stage at St. Ann's Warehouse are Japanese bunraku (up to three puppeteers onstage manipulating a puppet), string puppets (also known as marionettes), a hand puppet (performing a duet with an actor) and shadow puppets (where the puppet is behind a screen and seen by the audience as a silhouette).

Hurlin adds, "We have some puppets that don't fit nicely into a category. You can't say they're string puppets or rod puppets."

This year's "Labapalooza" is divided into two programs.

Program A includes "Bedcase," the story of a young woman crippled in a trolley accident; "The Attic," an adaptation of the Brothers Grimm fairytale "Jorinda and Joringle"; "If You Take a Fish Out of Water, Will It Swim?" in which an elderly woman recalls her travels through Indonesia and the Netherlands; and "The Biggest Play in the World," about a playwright struggling to produce a work of genius without becoming consumed by her characters.

Program B includes a meditation on the beauty and terror of technology, "The Bird Machine," an excerpt: Leo's Dream"; the second part of a chronicle of sleazy goings-on in a disreputable hotel, "The 47th Street Hotel, Part 2: A Little Thing and Pans"; the story of a 50-



Branching out: "The Adventures of Charcoal Boy," about a tree branch who comes to life after being struck by lightning, will be staged as part of the "Labapalooza" puppet festival at St. Ann's Warehouse.

year-old Civil War soldier, "Civil Woman"; and the tale of a tree branch that gets struck by lightning, comes to life and finds love with its accompanying sorrow, "The Adventures of Charcoal Boy."

Explaining the puppet artist selection process, Hurlin says, "We look for a history of being able to pull off ideas. We look at their work samples—videos and drawings. We're basically looking for interesting projects. It's very subjective. David and I work closely with

the artists, so we want to make sure we're excited about their projects."

What excites Hurlin the most is the small, intimate scale that is possible and the freedom that is inherent in puppetry.

"I like puppetry that looks for things human beings can't do. Puppets defy gravity. They can fall apart and come together again," he says.

Hurlin explains that he was introduced to working in scale when he was doing children's theater in New Hampshire. Later, when he was performing in an avant-garde show in which he played up to 60 characters, he learned that "objects could be useful as stand-ins for human beings." Finally, after visiting the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe, N.M., where he saw an exhibit of toy theaters, Hurlin decided to make puppetry his life's work.

Although most countries have indigenous forms of puppetry for adults, in the United States, the art form has been largely relegated to children's entertainment. Hurlin believes this is partly because in England, Punch and Judy puppet shows, which had started as street entertainment that incorporated the news of the day, had become children's entertainment by the 1700s. And it was as children's entertainment that puppetry was brought across the Atlantic. In the 20th century, puppetry's collaboration with television in shows like the '50s "Howdy Doody" and '60s "Kukla, Fran and Ollie" cemented the bond.

Then in the early 1990s, Jim Henson (of Muppets fame), created the biannual Henson International Festival of Puppet Theater, with events all over Manhattan.

"The festival was very visible and very exciting and incredibly invigorating," says Hurlin.

Inspired by this success, "Labapalooza" continues to celebrate the creative spirit, technical skills and collaborations that make puppetry both provocative and entertaining.

member listening to those Dylan tunes back in the '60s.

"Back then, the Beatles really caught my ear musically, but when I heard the Dylan songs afterwards, I realized that, even if I had heard them at the time, they wouldn't have caught my ear," said Corigliano. "The music is simplistic and repetitious, but it supports marvelous lyrics. The actual songs of the Beatles were musically interesting, but Dylan put these great, poetic lyrics to a simple musical style."

"Mr. Tambourine Man: Seven Poems of Bob Dylan" is a journey through seven Dylan lyrics that Corigliano wanted to adapt. "I looked through a book with all of his lyrics, and I narrowed it down to what [lyrics] I wanted to set and put them in a certain order to show a coming political awareness, in a way to find how the world really works," he explained.

The song cycle begins with "Mr. Tambourine Man," then moves through "Clothesline," "Blowin' in the Wind," "Masters of War," "All Along the Watchtower" and "Chimes of Freedom," before ending with "Forever Young."

"The postlude ['Forever Young'] is a kind of benediction after all that comes before," said Corigliano, who maintained that the fact that several of the chosen songs are among Dylan's greatest was sheer coincidence.

"I picked the ones for my own journey, because they were all obscure to me," he noted. "Most people who do know the songs find it very interesting to hear [this cycle]. Since they know the originals, it sounds like hearing two things at once, and it surprises them that both versions can exist."

See DYLAN on page 11



John Corigliano

Dylan redone

Brooklyn Philharmonic performs Bob Dylan's lyrics set to new music

By Kevin Filipski
for The Brooklyn Papers

The lyrics may be familiar, but the songs are definitely not the same.

On May 22, when the Brooklyn Philharmonic plays the New York premiere of an orchestral song cycle by John

Corigliano, "Mr. Tambourine Man: Seven Poems of Bob Dylan," the melodies we've heard for decades are nowhere to be found.

Instead, Corigliano's own music accompanies many of Dylan's most famous lyrics.

In a recent interview with GO Brooklyn, Corigliano, 66, said he did not re-

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BROOKLYN ites

Neighborhood
Dining Guide

This week:
SMITH STREET

Aqua

174 Smith St. at Warren Street, (718) 643-1589
(AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$17-\$24.50

In April, another seafood restaurant graced the sidewalks of Smith Street, only this one has a little something different — a caviar appetizer sampler. The tabouli caviar comes in four ways with ginger; with wasabi; infused with tea and herbs; or with hot pepper. And that's not all. Chef Belinda Bar suggests the "more assertive," Caribbean-style bouillabaisse made with shellfish, saffron, paprika and lots of garlic. And for dessert, the coconut gel de creme, hazelnut boscetti with raspberry espresso sauce, or white chocolate mousse are just three of the luscious menu items. Closed Sundays.

Carroll Garden Classic Dining

155 Smith St. at Bergen Street, (718) 403-9940
(AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$4.75-\$25.95

Open since September, the brightly lit Carroll Garden Classic Dining (also known as Salone) refines diner food with a touch of elegance. Traditional French and Italian dishes accent a menu that's already heavy on the steaks, over-stuffed sandwiches and seafood. Although heavier dishes rule, the menu also offers an assortment of lower-fat options like buffalo burgers, steamed halibut and salads. Open 24 hours. In addition to the standard menu, the diner also offers a brunch menu on Saturday and Sunday for \$13.95-\$14.95, which includes selections such as salmon Benedict or Los Benedict served with a choice of coffee, tea, or juice and the choice of fruit salad or a slice of pie.

Caserta Vecchia

221 Smith St. at Baltic Street, (718) 624-7549
www.casertavechia.com (MC, Visa) Entrees: \$15-\$22

Local pizza joint Caserta Vecchia — named for the owners' ancestral home near Naples — offers authentic Southern Italian specialties in addition to their 17 different takes on brick-oven pizza, which range from the classic Margherita to the distinct and nontraditional Nutella and pasta. Pasta includes the usual confines of red sauce, and includes favorites like tortellini in cream sauce with prosciutto and peas. Caserta Vecchia also offers an Atkins-friendly menu with whole-wheat pizzas and pasta. The outdoor garden is now open for al fresco dining. Delivery and takeout available. Closed Mondays.

Chestnut

271 Smith St. at Degraw Street, (718)243-0049
www.chestnutnyc.com (MC, Visa) Entrees: \$15-\$19

GO Brooklyn dining critic Tina Barry writes that Chef David Wurth's cooking "brings a palette of bold flavors to the table." Try either the veal with sage crumb, pan-roasted green beans and bacon or the duck with rhubarb, caramel orange, and yuca fritters. For dessert, Chestnut offers a vanilla panna cotta with strawberry syrup. Enjoy Sunday brunch from 11 am to 3 pm. Chestnut serves dinner Tuesday through Sunday.

Gowanus Yacht Club

323 Smith St. at President Street, No phone.
Entrees: \$2-\$5. Open through Halloween, weather permitting.

The sign says it all: "Like camp but with beer." Drift away to simpler times at the GYC, cheap burgers, hot dogs and beer. The Yacht Club is chef-restaurateur Alan Harding and partner Harry Hawk's (Patios, Schnitzel) answer to Smith Street. "Bistro barge" offers a live, laid-back outdoor space for nostalgic New Yorkers to sling back \$7 Pils (Pat's Blue Ribbon). Vegetarian "Monday" \$35 is also available. Open everyday at 4 pm.

Hana Cafe

235 Smith St. at Butler Street, (718) 643-1963
or (718) 643-1167 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa)
Entrees: \$6.50-\$14.95

On May 3, Hana Cafe opened its doors to

★ = Full review available at

**Brooklyn
Papers.com**

Abbreviation Key: AmEx= American Express, DC= Diner's Club, Disc= Discover Card, MC= MasterCard, Visa= Visa Card



The Gowanus Yacht Club, restaurateur Alan Harding's laid-back beer garden, is now open.

Japanese-food lovers. Teriyaki, noodle dishes, and sushi are just some of the items on Hana's menu. For \$12.95, Hana offers 12 dinner special combination bowls to choose from. In addition to the entree, each dinner bowl is served with rice, miso soup, green salad, 3 pieces of sushi, a California roll, and three pieces of shrimp. The list of special rolls on the menu is equally enticing and includes rolls such as Gindai, spicy boy spicy girl and rock 'n' roll. Delivery available. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

Patios

255 Smith St. at Douglas Street, (718) 865-1535
www.patiosrestaurant.com (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$12-\$19

This pioneering French bistro began by Alan Harding and Paul and Jim Mammy sparked the Smith Street restaurant revolution when it opened in December 1997. One wall is even papered in French newspaper clippings. Two dining rooms offer patrons a feeling of intimacy and eliminate long lines for a table. Chef Charles Steinmetz's signature dishes include garlic snails with puff pastry, fries as polaire and grilled Atlantic salmon with sherry mustard, a lentil salad and roasted mushrooms. A \$20 prix fixe dinner is served 5:30-7:30 pm, Tuesday through Thursday. For a romantic evening, request a table by the fireplace. Outdoor dining now available. Vegetarian offerings and Sunday brunch (with unlimited mimosas, virgin Bloody Mary's and coffee).

Red Rose

315 Smith St. at Union Street, (718) 425-0963
(AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$10-\$17

This Italian restaurant laid the foundation for the Smith Street renaissance more than 20 years ago. Red Rose has an expanding wine list that boasts wines from around the world, pink linen-draped tables, and red brick walls. Run by the Romano family for two generations, Red Rose offers a classic Southern Italian menu featuring seafood, poultry and pasta as well as many daily specials. "Our crabcakes are the best around," boasts Santo Romano. He oversees the restaurant's menu, and ensures that chef Steven Barkhead continues to serve dad's "famous rice balls" as well as the many other popular entrees. Romano sums up his two decades of success simply: "Our formula is fresh, great food and good service." Closed Tuesdays.

Smithwicks

191 Smith St. at Warren Street, (347) 643-9911
(AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$10-\$23

Chef Noel Thompson dresses up reliable American favorites, adding the occasional unexpected. For example, his Macadamia-crusted Pacific cod with wild mushroom sauce and wasabi mayonnaise. Their \$20 prix fixe five-course sunset supper menu changes daily. There's also an \$8.95 lunchtime prix fixe menu, available Monday through Friday between 11:30 am and 3 pm, which has to be one of the best bargains in Brooklyn. The Smithwicks menu also features an "Irish Corner," which includes shepherd's pie, mixed grill and fish and chips. Weekend brunch is offered from 11 am to 4 pm.

Tuk Tuk

204 Smith St. at Baltic Street, (718) 222-5598
(Cash only) Entrees: \$7-\$9

Tuk Tuk, owned by Tansanee Boonmongkol, serves up authentic Thai food. The cozy restaurant, which seats about 45 people, is named for the ubiquitous three-wheeled vehicle in Thailand — akin to a taxi — which makes a "tuk tuk tuk" sound. Tuk Tuk also offers wines and imported beers. Signature dishes include the curries and "duck kabob," a chef's favorite selection of crispy baked duck with a chili-basil sauce. Tuk Tuk has live music, usually jazz, on Friday and Saturday nights from 7:30 pm to 11 pm.



Young Turks

Williamsburg's Nar Meze Bar is trendy, but needs consistency

By Tina Barry
For The Brooklyn Papers

When partners — and sisters — Ayse and Asu Telgoren opened their Williamsburg eatery, Nar Meze Bar, in June, they keyed into two trends. Both the name, Nar, which means "pomegranate" in Turkish, and its menu of meze, or small-plate dining, were both hot fads last year.

The pomegranate enjoyed a moment as the "it" food of 2003. Barenders shook pomegranate mantis and whirled the fruit's sweet and tart juice into girlishly pink daiquiris. Chickens were tenderized then brushed with a splash of the fruit's deep, beet-colored liquid, and pastry

chefs rinsed dessert plates with its glistening, ruby-colored seeds. Now the pomegranate has been immortalized as a Williamsburg restaurant which serves small dishes that showcase the complex flavors of Turkish cuisine.

Nar's chef is Belgizur Murat, whose experience includes years of catering and working as a food and beverage manager for five-star Turkish hotels. When Murat's dishes work, they're lively and complex. When they don't, they're dull or suffering from carelessness in the kitchen: usually overcooking.

Nar's dishes will be familiar to anyone who's wandered through Sahadi's, the wonderful Middle Eastern specialty food store on Atlantic Avenue. Feta cheese, the

walnut paste with red pepper called ceviz ezme, and taramo, or codfish roe (the ingredient in taranissata, a luscious spread made of the roe, milk-soaked bread-crumbs and lemon juice) make appearances.

Nar differs from other Middle Eastern restaurants in its decor and food presentation. The bar area is slightly seedy looking, while the dining room is dark with leather booths, linen-covered tables and tin walls. Dishes are plated with more fanfare than the usual kabobs served on an oblong dish.

At Nar, cubes of grilled meat or small wooden skewers are pushed into a round of bread, like a meat flower, and ringed with a splash of sauce. The restaurant is in a neighborhood of the artistically gifted, so visuals count.

The good looks begin with "The Nar," the restaurant's house cocktail. Served in a champagne flute, its mix of Stolichnaya raspberry vodka, champagne and "Nar mix" (pomegranate, lemon and sour cherry juice) produces a rosy, effervescent cocktail that is pleasantly fruity with just a touch of sweetness.

But why the "Mandallina," an ice-cold blend of Absolut mandarin, Cointreau and lemon juice should be salty, I don't know. Still, it was surprisingly drinkable, and, like any bar owner who's ever set out a basket of peanuts knows, salt is good for the appetite.

Nar's menu is divided into "Hot," grilled or fried meat, fish and vegetable



Family business: (Above left) Sisters and partners Asu and Ayse Telgoren with photos of their restaurant Nar Meze Bar, in a previous incarnation, circa 1950. (Above) Chef Belgizur Murat's fried phyllo dough rolls are stuffed with feta cheese and parsley.

dishes served warm, and "Cold," traditional Turkish spreads, vegetable salads, fish, cheese and sausage served chilled or at room temperature.

Of the "Hot" I sampled, only one was just right. The others suffered from underseasoning or overcooking. The soup of the day, a blend of celery and carrots, was pleasingly smooth and soothing, but lacking in depth. I wouldn't call it bland, but exciting it was not.

I had high hopes for the pan-fried calf's liver cubes seasoned with chili flakes and sumac, served over a salad of red onions and parsley. It was almost there, too, with the seasoning just piquant enough. If only the liver had been rare. I loved the deliciously moist little beef and lamb meatballs that were part of a skewered trio of meat — one skewer of meatballs, one of chicken, the other lamb cubes — but the chicken was dry and although the lamb was rich and well seasoned, it would have benefited from less time over the flames.

The one dish that helped me forget (at least until I wrote this) the not-so-hot "Hot" was the evening's special puff pastry filled with seafood and a Turkish cheese made from ewe's milk that had a

strong, nutty flavor. The pastry surrounding the seafood was crisp, airy and buttery. The shrimp, calamari and mussels were perfectly cooked, and the cheese was used like a drop of good perfume — judiciously so that its strong essence underscored the sweetness of the fish.

One "Cold" dish that must be tried is the char-grilled baby eggplant, puree. Each bite of the eggplant emits the smokiness of the grill, while good, fruity olive oil, infused with garlic, lends the puree richness and a delicious bite. Don't pass it up.

As for the desserts, Murat keeps the plating and the dishes simple. The apricots filled with creme fraiche seem like something that should be part of a dessert plate, not a dessert in itself. About six of the plum fruits sit unadorned on a plate. They're tasty but underwhelming. And the kadiys, two small, rolled pastries filled with honey and ground pistachio nuts in honey syrup, are pleasant, but they don't have a cookie. A couple of cookies in a restaurant does not a dessert make.

A stricter watch over the grill and fry pan would help this ambitious restaurant realize its potential this summer.

Five-star explorer



Starry eyed: Marco Polo proprietor Joe Chirico, new chef Bruno Milone and manager Michael Scotto receive the Five Star Diamond Award on May 12.

Marco Polo Ristorante on Court Street was awarded the prestigious International Five Star Diamond Award, on May 12, from the American Academy of Hospitality Services. The award is bestowed on better establishments in the world that meet the highest level of food and service.

Of the 25 restaurants in the New York area to be so awarded this year, including Manhattan's Jean-Georges, chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten's restaurant, and Daniel Boulud's exalted Daniel, Marco Polo Ristorante was the only Brooklyn recipient.

Academy representative Karen Dixon cited Joe Chirico, the restaurant's owner, as a large factor in the decision.

"Joe is one of the most dedicated restaurateurs we know. He is charming and makes every guest feel special," Dixon said. Of Marco Polo's new chef, Bruno Milone, who revamped the restaurant's menu in March, Dixon

added, "He is wonderful. We expect great things from him."

Chirico describes Milone's style of cooking as "fresh and light." Milone, who hails from Altamura, Puglia, in southern Italy, is making all the pastas, the pastry and even the gelato and sorbetti in-house. His supple fettuccini, tinted pink with red wine, is crowned with only a drizzle of olive oil and a sprinkle of freshly grated Parmesan. Grilled jumbo shrimp are served on a pillow of wild fennel, and a lamb chop is sautéed with anise. Sounds like five-star summer eating.

Marco Polo Ristorante (354 Court St. at Union Street in Carroll Gardens) accepts Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Diners Club and Discover. Pastas: \$11-\$13, entrees: \$16-\$25. The restaurant serves lunch Monday through Friday and Sunday. Dinner is served seven days a week. For reservations, call (718) 852-5015. — Tina Barry

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Sheer folly

The Heights Players are the latest Sondheim casualties

By Paulanne Simmons
for The Brooklyn Papers

This must be the season of Sondheim. "Assassins" just opened at Studio 54. "Merrily We Roll Along" is at the Gallery Players. And a week into their run, "Follies" opens at another Brooklyn venue, the Heights Players.

What makes this especially amazing is that Sondheim stands out as one of the most dense and difficult writers of musicals to come along in the last quarter century. His plots often take unexpected journeys. His plays seldom have happy or uplifting endings.

His songs have erudite lyrics and melodies that are infrequently melodic and often unmemorable. Tom Tyler has ambitiously and courageously chosen to direct the Heights Players' extravagant production; there are over three dozen in the cast. Although there are some nice moments in the play, one cannot help but wish Tyler had limited his ambition to his resources. It's obvious that everyone associated with "Follies" is trying really hard, but watching it unfold reminds one painfully of a 6-year-old trying to get to the cookies in a jar on a shelf she can't reach.

Set in the about-to-be-demolished theater where the Weissman girls have been

reunited for the first and last time by their former boss, the impresario Dimitri Weissman (John Bourne), "Follies" juxtaposes past and present, fantasy and reality, and hope and despair. Although there are many vignettes that provide glimpses of what has become of the other girls, the play focuses on two unhappy wives, Phyllis (Judith Meehan) and Sally (Betsy Marra).

Phyllis is unhappy because her husband, Benjamin Stone (Tom Levy), is successful and cold.

as a ... well ... stone. Sally is unhappy because her husband, Buddy Plummer (Steven Bergquist), is unsuccessful and unfaithful, and anyway, she's really

always loved Ben, who rejected her years ago and will reject her again.

There are many times I wished "Follies" were a simpler, leaner show. But without all the trimmings, the plot would be revealed as not only thin, but also incomplete. Why the heck did Ben marry Phyllis in the first place?

Meehan is powerful and poignant. Her anger is sexy and her defiance makes her desirable. Marra, with her frizzy hair and harebrained chatter, is foolish and vulnerable. Together they form a tableau of what no woman wants to become.

Unfortunately, Levy and Bergquist



The Weissman girls: The Heights Players' extravagant production of "Follies," directed by Tom Tyler, features a large cast.

are no match for their mates. It's hard to imagine why the characters were married in the play or the actors were cast for the production.

But the biggest problem with "Follies" is the music. Sondheim, who started his career as a lyricist ("West Side Story" in 1957 and "Gypsy" in 1959) and as a protégé of Oscar Hammerstein II, wrote consistently brilliant lyrics but is an uneven composer. "Follies" has a lot of music but only a few songs that really stand out, like "Broadway Baby," "In Buddy's Eyes" and "I'm Still Here."

Vivienne La Barbera, as Hank Walker, belts out "Broadway Baby" like a Bette Midler in Brooklyn. But Marra, who has a sweet voice, does not have the range for "In Buddy's Eyes." And Susan Faye Gendron, as Carlotta Campion, who is excellent with the spoken word, doesn't have the oomph to belt out "I'm Still Here."

Even the way she needs it. If "Follies" lacks energy, this is due in no small part to the number of people who weigh down the Heights Players' small stage. There are times it seems more like watching Times Square during rush hour rather than a dance number on

stage. The phrase "less means more" was never more applicable.

In 1971, "Follies" opened to mixed reviews despite the many celebrities director Harold Prince brought back to the stage — Yvonne DeCarlo, Mary McCarty, Ethel Shuster — and the statuesque showgirls who wandered around the stage as ghosts of time gone by. It ran for 522 performances. In 1998, Paper Mill Playhouse mounted a highly acclaimed production, and in 2001, the show was brought back to Broadway by the Roundabout Theatre. This time it ran for only 117 performances.

By "Fiddler on the Roof" or "Hello Dolly" standards, Sondheim's musicals are not exactly mega-hits, but his work has often garnered both awards and praise from the critics. "Follies" won the Drama Critics Circle Award for best musical in 1971.

Even in the hands of professionals, "Follies" is a challenge, which may be why it's not exactly a stock show. Doing it well would certainly be a triumph. One suspects the Heights Players wanted to end the season with a hit. Unfortunately, it was a miss.

premiering by John Corigliano. He has such an appetite for everything, and he's the only composer who can pull this off and make it the vibrant piece that it is.

"I worked on putting this program together," she continued, "and since it is the 50th anniversary [of the Brooklyn Philharmonic], we wanted to create all these special ties that link the orchestra's history to New York City's history and to music history."

Corigliano has the best perspective on this very special program of classical music that spans the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries.

"I think it's very appropriate that an American orchestra honors Beethoven and Strauss, but at the same time, represents American contemporary music, which is how an orchestra can actually remain relevant to the community," said Corigliano.

"That's healthy."

MUSIC

The Brooklyn Philharmonic performs the music of Beethoven, Strauss and Corigliano at the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, 30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, May 22 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20, \$40 and \$55. For more information, call (718) 622-5555.

miere all-Beethoven concert in 1954, and Richard Strauss' "Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme" Suite, a concert for the entire orchestra.

JoAnn Falletta, conductor of another New York State orchestra, the Buffalo Philharmonic, makes her Brooklyn debut with this concert.

"I'm delighted about conducting [here] for the first time," she said in a recent interview. "It's an exciting piece that we're

DYLAN...

Continued from page 9

This, of course, is not new in the classical music world, where many poems have been set to music by more than one composer.

"The point about art is its universality," said Corigliano. "Even if it was specifically about one thing, you can apply it to other things and it will still make sense. I wanted something that really speaks to us today."

Corigliano's Dylan cycle was unveiled four years ago at Carnegie Hall as a work for soprano and piano accompaniment; Sylvia McNair sang the premiere. For the Brooklyn premiere of the orchestral cycle, Hila Pittman will sing.

"The orchestra does change [the work]

an awful lot," said Corigliano. "It was written for amplified soprano, since I don't want Dylan's words to sound operatic, and I don't want the singer to try and project over the orchestra in a natural voice. You can sing more naturally when you're amplified, since you don't need to sing over the orchestra."

For his part, Corigliano, a Midwood High School alumnus, is excited that Pittman is singing his work.

"She has this extraordinary gift for getting inside music, which very few people do," he said. "She brings something to the songs that's unique — she acts them as well as she sings them. For me, it's pure joy to hear her."

Along with Corigliano's composition, the concert — the final one of the Brooklyn Philharmonic's 50th anniversary season — features a Beethoven overture as a nod to the orchestra's pre-

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Say you're sorry, Mr. Mayor!

Apology sought for 'death ticket'

By Jotham Sederstrom
The Brooklyn Papers

Councilman Domenic Recchia introduced a resolution in the City Council this week demanding that Mayor Michael Bloomberg apologize for comments he made following the fatal heart attack of a Bensonhurst tailor.

The measure introduced on Wednesday calls for Bloomberg to make amends to the family of Onofrio Avvinti, who died on April 10 minutes after being issued a \$115 ticket for double parking. In a \$100 million lawsuit, the family claims that the Sicilian-born patriarch might have survived had the traffic agents called an ambulance instead of driving away, as evidenced in a surveillance video that captured images of the confrontation.

"It would be nice to have the apology," said Vito Avvinti, the victim's 32-year-old son. "What he said was false. Whether he saw the video or not, I don't know. But before he opens his mouth he should really look at it."

Sanford Rubenstein, a lawyer for the family, said that the council resolution stems from comments made by Bloomberg during an event in Canarsie on April 15. "The story is one thing, the facts are another," Bloomberg told reporters. Rubenstein said that statement cast doubt on the veracity of the Avvinti family's claims.

The mayor has declined to comment except to express his condolences to the family while maintaining that the city employees who gave Avvinti the ticket appeared to be doing nothing wrong.

This week the apology resolution will go before the Cultural Affairs, Libraries & International Intergroup Relations Committee for a hearing.

On Wednesday, Recchia was flanked by Bay Ridge-Bensonhurst Councilman Vincent Gentile, who also came out in support of the Avvinti family after viewing the surveillance video. "It is an outrage to hear that the mayor insulted a hardworking Italian-American family in Bensonhurst," said Scott Castel, a spokesman for Gentile.

Just before the heart attack, Avvinti was waiting for his wife to return from shopping at a Met Foods supermarket on 20th Avenue, where she was buying groceries for Easter dinner. While she was inside, the traffic agents — Lance Hinkson and an unidentified woman — approached Onofrio Avvinti and wrote him the ticket.

As seen in the video, Avvinti clutches his chest and raises his arms before the traffic agents, who are parked behind him, drive away.

But Vito Avvinti claims to have an edited copy of that video that appeared on local news channels when it was first released, without the traffic agents' cruiser in the image. He believes that version was doctored and leaked by City Hall.

"This has all been difficult," said Vito Avvinti. "My mother's not doing very well. She thinks she doing better for a while, then she slips back into a depression."

The Avvinti tragedy will be discussed at a town hall meeting scheduled for St. Dominic's Roman Catholic Church Community Center on Thursday, May 27, at 7:30 p.m. The meeting is sponsored by the Federation of Italian-American Organizations.

Cops seek help in old murder

By Jotham Sederstrom
The Brooklyn Papers

Police this week asked the public for help in finding a white Lincoln LS sedan they believe was involved in a murder on the Belt Parkway one year ago.

Francesco Santillo, an 18-year-old honors architecture student, was returning home with three other friends from a pool hall in Bay Ridge on May 17, 2003, at around 2:30 a.m., when a single shot ripped through the red Subaru his pal was driving. Police believe the gunshot was fired by someone in the backseat of the white sedan. It whizzed past a friend sitting next to Santillo in the backseat and hit Santillo between the eyes. He died nearly 24 hours later at Coney Island Hospital.

"We've learned nothing at all," said Carmela Santillo, the victim's aunt. "Every time there's a lead, it falls apart. My nephew's killer is out there and nobody's found him."

Police this week upped the reward for information leading to an arrest to \$12,000.

Carmela Santillo and more than 100 family members and friends held a vigil on Monday for the James Madison High School graduate. Together, they walked along the shore from Bay Parkway to Bay Eighth Street, where his family placed flowers near the highway.

"Our family is destroyed," she said. "He not only killed my nephew, but destroyed the spirit of the whole family."

Santillo's friends — ages 18, 19 and 25 — told police at the time that the shooting may have stemmed from lustful glances the quartet directed toward two women in the front seats of the sedan. They described them as a blond and a brunette, both in their late teens or early 20s. But police also indicated that the attack could have been a case of road rage because the driver of the Lincoln had tried unsuccessfully to pass the Subaru as the two cars entered an onramp to the Belt Parkway at Bay Eighth Street.

Police say the Lincoln sped up and then pulled around to the driver's side of the Subaru. While both cars were in motion, a man with short black hair stretched his arm out from the rear window and fired, hitting Santillo in the head as the cars sped between the Bay Parkway and Cropsey Avenue exits. According to news reports last year, police marveled at the accuracy of the shooter.

Almost a month after the shooting, police discovered video of the Lincoln that was taped that morning by a surveillance camera at 14th and Cropsey avenues near the western edge of the Dyker Beach Golf Course. Short of those images, however, police have not been able to gather much more information.

"We just want those two girls who were in the car to give some information," said Carmela Santillo.

Police are asking anyone with information to call their Crimestoppers hotline at (800) 577-TIPS.

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Condo planned for Atlantic Ave. Mobil site

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Atlantic Avenue may now be home to baby boutiques and designer furniture stores, but many residents still bemoan a two-block stretch in Boerum Hill, not-so-affectionately known as "the dead zone" or "the gap."

Filled with gas stations, parking lots and a prison, the stretch of Atlantic Avenue near Boerum Place separates rapidly developing sections of the avenue to the east and west.

But these days even the so-called gap is beginning to fill in.

A developer is looking to replace the Mobil gas station and car wash at Boerum Place with an eight-story luxury condominium.

In addition to ground-floor retail space, the building at 253 Atlantic Ave. would include approximately 65 apartments and a parking garage, according to Patrick Jones, attorney for the property's owner, Marc Chemtob.

Chemtob and his associates are still working out design kinks but hope to make an application to the Board of Standards and Appeals soon.

Last week Jones presented the plans to Community Board 2.

While the design kinks are still being worked out, the community is welcoming the development with open arms.

"This is great news," said Sandy Balboza, president of the Atlantic Avenue Better Association (ABBA), who called the gas station an "eyesore."

The organization has been working for years to help develop that strip and in the late 1990s sponsored a study examining the problem between Court and Smith streets.

"Our goal is to eliminate that gap and connect the two now-divided retail strips. It's one avenue with two separate retail strips because of that area," said Balboza.

The transformation began two years ago when the city sold off a massive municipal parking garage at the corner of Atlantic Avenue and Court Street.

Real estate developer David Walentas, best known for his redevelopment of DUMBO, in the past year razed the garage to make way for a 12-story building with 20,000 square feet of ground-floor retail space, loosely slated for a home furnishings business, about 600 underground, public parking spaces and 250 apartments on the second through 12th floors. A 40,000-square-foot YMCA with a swimming pool at Atlantic Avenue is also part of the project.

Down the block at Smith Street and At-

lantic Avenue, developer Shaya Boymel-green is converting a state-owned parking lot into a retail and residential development.

The hulking Brooklyn House of Detention still stands opposite the gas station site at Atlantic Avenue and Boerum Place. Last year, the city transferred all the inmates from the jail to Rikers Island and some neighbors are now asking the city to sell it off or tear it down.

"There has been enormous change," said Sue Wolfe, president of the Boerum Hill Association. "That was a real stopgap, it was quite unpleasant," she added.

Wolfe hopes Atlantic Avenue can become a grand boulevard connecting the planned BAM Cultural District in Fort Greene with Brooklyn Bridge Park — the 1.3-mile commercial and recreational space planned along the waterfront between Jay Street and Atlantic Avenue.

While Wolfe said she was excited about the gas station development, there are still several concerns.

"We think the design should be rethought," she said, noting the balconies, which the developer has agreed to remove. Wolfe said aesthetics were particularly important because, for many people coming off the Brooklyn Bridge, this will be their first glimpse into the borough.



The Mobil gas station and car wash, on the corner of Atlantic Avenue and Boerum Place may be knocked down and replaced with eight stories of luxury condominiums.

Giuliani heckled during his 9-11 testimony

By Devlin Barrett
Associated Press

New York officials probably would not have changed security priorities even if they had knowledge of an August 2001 White House briefing paper that warned of terrorists casing city buildings, former mayor Rudolph Giuliani told the Sept. 11 commission Wednesday.

Giuliani's testimony was interrupted with angry outbursts by victims' families, including chants of "One-sided!" and "Put us on the panel!" One man, a longtime Giuliani adversary, was tossed out of the hearing after shouting at the panel to "ask some real questions!"

The heckling was a sharp contrast to some of the questioning from commission members, who gave Giuliani a warm welcome and praised his leadership following Sept. 11.

The Aug. 6, 2001, intelligence briefing for President Bush — titled "Bin Laden Determined To Strike in U.S." — referred to evidence of buildings in New York being looked by terrorists as possible targets. It mentioned New York or the World Trade Center three times.

"If that information had been given to us, or more warnings had been given in the summer of 2001, I can't honestly tell you we'd do anything differently," Giuliani testified.

"We were doing at the time everything we could think of... to protect the city."

Giuliani said the briefings he received from federal officials indicated that New York's bridges, tunnels and subways were more likely targets.

"I do think the interpretation would have been more in the direction of suicide bombings than aerial attacks," Giuliani said one day after his top

commissioners were grilled over their Sept. 11 response.

It was about 90 minutes into his testimony that Giuliani was shouted down by family members of the trade center victims.

"My son was murdered!" yelled Sally Regenhart, who lost her firefighter son in the attack. Others in the audience shouted about the failure of Fire Department radios, shouting, "Talk about the radios!"

"You're simply wasting time at this point," commission head Thomas Kean told the family members.

"YOU'RE wasting time!" came the angry reply.

Just as Giuliani finished testifying, Christopher Brodeur — a New Yorker who became one of Giuliani's most ardent critics during his two terms in City Hall — jumped out of his seat.

"Three thousand people are dead!" Brodeur yelled before security guards escorted him out. "They were not killed be-



Former Mayor Rudy Giuliani

cause he's a great leader. ... Let's ask some real questions!" A second spectator was also ejected.

The former mayor and his commissioners were widely hailed for their efforts after two hijacked planes slammed into the twin towers, killing 2,749 people and rattling the city's psyche.

But on Tuesday, commis-

sion member John Lehman said the failure of city agencies to communicate effectively on 9/11 was a scandal "not worthy of the Boy Scouts, let alone this great city."

Giuliani said in his opening statement that the commission's priority should be preventing a new attack, not assigning blame.

"Our enemy is not each other, but the terrorists who attacked us," Giuliani said. The mayor acknowledged there were "terrible mistakes" made on Sept. 11, but attributed that to the unprecedented circumstances.

After testifying, Giuliani suggested that Lehman owed his staff an apology.

"I was upset about that comment and the Boy Scout thing," Giuliani said outside the hearing. "They did the best job that anybody could."

Commission member James Thompson, before questioning Giuliani, said the

panel was "not engaged in a search for blame, not engaged in a search for villains." Instead, he said, the commission hoped to save the lives of other Americans — a comment that drew more applause.

Giuliani pointed out that the bravery and quick thinking of city rescuers under brutal conditions had saved thousands of lives.

"Maybe 8,000 more, maybe 9,000 more than anyone could rightfully expect" were brought to safety before the towers collapsed, Giuliani said.

About 25,000 people were evacuated from the World Trade Center.

He began by describing his actions and feelings on Sept. 11, recounting a morning that began at breakfast with two friends and quickly turned into unimaginable horror. He recalled his final meetings with several victims, and he described the scene when the first tower collapsed.

"It first felt like an earthquake, and then it looked like a nuclear cloud," Giuliani said. As Giuliani remembered watching a man leap from around the 102nd floor, family members began to cry, clearly disturbed by the account.

Just before Giuliani took the stand, the commission released a 10-page staff report saying that basic flaws in the city's emergency 911 phone system denied people inside the World Trade Center potentially life-saving information.

The 911 phone system's operators and dispatchers were unaware that fire chiefs were evacuating the doomed twin towers because the city had no way of relaying that information, the commission staff concluded.

With the buildings' public address systems out of service, workers inside the buildings called 911 for help but were not told to evacuate, according to the report, which was the

second part of the most comprehensive probe to date of New York's response to the attacks.

An unknown number of victims in the south tower might have had a better chance of survival if 911 operators had instructed them not to flee upward, where some found locked roof doors and no hope of escape, the report concluded.

"In several ways, the system was not ready to cope with a major disaster," the report said.

Current Mayor Michael Bloomberg also testified, complaining that New York was recently advised by Congress that its homeland security funding for the 2004 budget year would be cut by nearly 50 percent.

"This is pork barrel politics at its worst," the mayor said. "It also, unfortunately, has the effect of aiding and abetting those who hate us and plot against us."

THEATER...

Continued from page 1

Bunny Theater closed in 1929 at the onset of the Great Depression and reopened in the 1930s as the Plaza Theater.

"In the old days you had the big movie palaces and you worked your way down to get to the 'rich' or 'the dump,' and that's what the Plaza was for much of its life," said Del Valle.

The "itch house" reputation lasted throughout the years at the Plaza even as different owners stepped in.

In the late 1960s the faltering theater began featuring X-rated films. Sometime in the 1980s a plaque honoring Bunny disappeared from the front of the building.

Before closing, the Carlton, a block away, was the movie house of choice.

A grandiose movie theater with a chandelier in the lobby and elaborate mirrors in the bathrooms, the Carlton opened in 1914.

That theater was bought in the 1980s by the Brooklyn Tabernacle Church and for nearly two decades housed its famous choir.

"If you didn't have too much money you went to the Plaza," Connor recalled.

Before being converted to a church, the Carlton featured Kung Fu and blaxploitation films.

And while by the late 1990s Hollywood features had returned to the Plaza screens, Connor said it wasn't rare to smell people smoking marijuana in the theater.

"You could get high watching the movie," she said.

But those days ended, residents say, when Screen Arts stepped in. The company first converted the old Sanders Theater at Prospect Park West between 14th and 15th streets into the Pavilion, an eight-theater movieplex in 1996.

Adie also snatched up the Brooklyn Heights Cinema and vowed to turn the run-down cinemas into a state-of-the-art art-house with some mainstream films.

While the Brooklyn Heights Pavilion now has comfortable seating, serves coffee in its lobby and generally plays more independent films, the Flatbush Pavilion tended towards more mainstream movies.

On its closing night, the theater will feature the recently released flicks "Van Helsing" and "Man on Fire."

In 1928 there were 23 theaters in Brooklyn according to Del Valle who says there are now just a dozen left.

The other Bunny Theater, at 149th Street and Broadway, in Harlem, opened its doors a year after the Brooklyn theater and closed just last year.

"It's sad that it's closing," Del Valle said of the Flatbush Pavilion. "We're losing our historic theaters rather quickly."



Kelly honors Iraq war heroes

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly (second from left) honors police officers (from left) Kenneth Caesar, Carlos Viera and Irving Marrero, all of whom served a tour of duty in Iraq. The officers all work at the 72nd Precinct, on Fourth Avenue and 29th Street in Sunset Park, where they were honored last Saturday. At right is Capt. Frank Vega, the precinct's commanding officer.

Water Taxi cuts back Red Hook

By Jotham Sederstrom
The Brooklyn Papers

It would seem a natural fit — a waterfront community and a fast-ferry service.

But in Red Hook, New York Water Taxi has had a tough time drumming up business for its two-month-old Brooklyn to Lower Manhattan service, despite moving its headquarters to the Beant Street Pier.

New York Water Taxi ridership in Red Hook has shrunk to about 10 passengers a day since it began March 16, said the company's president, Tom Fox, who added five of those riders are his own employees.

And while Fox has drastically cut back

the Red Hook service, he says he plans on sticking it out, especially with Red Hook developer Greg O'Connell refurbishing a Civil War-era warehouse for Fairway.

Fox believes ridership will climb after the opening of the mammoth supermarket, currently under construction at 480-500 Van Brunt St., overlooking the NY Water Taxi dock.

The 120,000-square-foot grocery store is expected to employ an estimated 350 people. Other projects planned on the floors above the supermarket could employ an additional 150. Fairway's flagship store in Harlem draws people from throughout the city, and the Red Hook store is expected to do likewise.

"When the Fairway comes here, I'm sure there will be more demand," said Fox, who moved his executive offices to the Beant Street Pier earlier this year. Since 2001, when he moved some of Water Taxi's operations to Red Hook, the company has become a presence in the neighborhood, even hiring about two employees each year from the Red Hook Houses and putting them through school at Kingsborough Community College, Fox said.

Water Taxis continue to depart from the Beant Street Pier on a drastically reduced schedule and with boats alternating between service to Pier 11 at Wall Street and Pier A at the World Financial Center.

There are currently seven runs each

weekday — 9:54 a.m., 12:38 p.m., 12:59 p.m., 1:03 p.m., 1:50 p.m., 3:03 p.m. and 4:21 p.m. — not exactly ideal for 9-to-5ers.

There is no weekend service.

"We don't have very many morning commuters at all and that's because a lot of people here are artists and don't necessarily commute to Lower Manhattan," said Fox. "The pioneers out here are generally not working on Wall Street."

When it first began, service ran every 25 minutes during peak times and included a connection at the Brooklyn Army Terminal in Sunset Park.

But that route was discontinued because of declining numbers on both piers, said Fox.



Riders enjoy the view from a New York Water Taxi on 2002.



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